

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

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S E C R E T BEIRUT 4018

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PSDC
SUBJECT: MESSAGE TO FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS

REF: STATE 192563

1. DELIVERED ORAL MESSAGE CONTAINED REFTEL TO FONMIN BOUTROS THIS MORNING, AUGUST 17. HE INTRIGUED BY SECOND PARAGRAPH AND FACT WE DID NOT MENTION USE OF UN FORCES. HE ASKED WHETHER THIS MEANT THERE HAD BEEN CHANGE IN OUR POSITION.

2. I SAID WE HAD FROM BEGINNING FELT THAT IF LEBANESE FORCES COULD DO THE JOB THAT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO USING UN FORCES. WE HAD TOLD SYRIANS AND ISRAELIS, HOWEVER, THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO SUPPORT UN FORCE IDEA IF LEBANON PROPOSED IT. HE WAS AWARE OF RESPONSES OF BOTH PARTIES.

3. BOUTROS SAID HE WISHED TO BE SURE HE UNDERSTOOD CLEARLY WHAT ISRAELI POSITION WAS. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WERE TWO ELEMENTS TO IT. FIRST WAS THAT THERE SHOULD BE CEASE-FIRE AND WITHDRAWAL BY PALESTINIANS. BY WITHDRAWAL ISRAELIS REALLY MEANT WITHDRAWAL BEYOND LITANI. THE SECOND WAS THAT BORDER AREA AND SOUTH LEBANON SHOULD BE CONTROLLED EITHER BY LEBANESE OR UN TROOPS. I SAID THIS WAS ALSO MY UNDERSTANDING.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 04018 171532Z

4. BOUTROS ASKED ABOUT THE SITUATION ALONG THE BORDER. I SAID THERE HAD BEEN A RESUMPTION OF HEAVY SHELLING FOR WHICH THE RESPONSIBILITY SEEMED TO REST WITH THE CHRISTIANS AND ISRAELIS MORE THAN WITH THE PALESTINIANS. WE HAD, HOWEVER, SENT STRONG PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO BOTH BEGIN AND ASSAD AND I HOPED THESE WOULD HAVE SOME EFFECT. THE SITUATION WAS

DANGEROUS, NEVERTHELESS, AND I WAS CONCERNED BY THE FACT BACHIR GEMAYEL CONTINUED TO TALK ABOUT TAKING NAQOURA. BOUTROS SAID HE HAD GATHERED FROM THE LEBANESE ARMY COMMAND THAT THIS WAS THE REAL RISK AT PRESENT; I.E., THAT ISRAELIS AND LEBANESE CHRISTIANS WOULD ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE NAQOURA. HE ASKED WHAT THE PALESTINIAN REACTION WOULD BE. I SAID I DID NOT KNOW.

5. I ASKED WHEN HE THOUGHT THE LEBANESE WOULD HAVE A FORCE ABLE TO MOVE INTO THE BORDER AREAS. HE REFERRED TO A STATEMENT HE MADE YESTERDAY CARRIED BY THE PRESS TODAY THAT THE LEBANESE ARMY COULD MOVE IN ONLY UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, I.E., WITHDRAWAL AND CEASE-FIRE. THESE CONDITIONS WERE DISCUSSED IN A MEETING YESTERDAY BETWEEN DETERRENT FORCES, LEBANESE ARMY AND PALESTINIANS. ANOTHER MEETING WAS TO BE HELD TODAY (AUGUST 17). HE HOPED THAT BY TOMORROW A DECISION WOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN ON WHEN THEY COULD MOVE IN. IT WOULD OF COURSE DEPEND ON A PALESTINIAN COMMITMENT REGARDING CEASE-FIRE AND WITHDRAWAL. NATURE AND EXTENT OF WITHDRAWAL NOT YET DETERMINED.

6. I ASKED BOUTROS WHETHER HE WAS GOING TO BE ABLE TO MEET THE END OF AUGUST DEADLINE FOR A DRAFT PEACE TREATY. HE SAID HE WOULD LET ME KNOW IN A COUPLE OF DAYS.

7. I ASKED BOUTROS IF HE WAS INDEED PLANNING TO ATTEND
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 04018 171532Z

UNGA IN SEPTEMBER AND HE SAID HE WAS. HE DID NOT KNOW WHEN OR FOR HOW LONG AND WAS CONSULTING WITH OTHER ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS IN THIS RESPECT. HE WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE MET WITH KADDAM IN SHTAURA TOMORROW BUT THIS HAD HAD TO BE POSTPONED BECAUSE KADDAM APPARENTLY DECIDED TO TAKE A LITTLE VACATION SOMEWHERE.

8. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT REPEAT DAMASCUS AND TEL AVIV.
PARKER

SECRET

NNN

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